•666 Others 8,199 --

For general elections the country is divided into sixteen districts. Any Finnish citizen of voting age can be nominated as a candidate for the Diet, provided that no less than fifty voters promise in writing to vote for him in the election. The voting is by secret ballot and based on the principle of proportional representation. The same method is used in the election of presidential electors and in the communal elections. As mentioned in Subparagraph 2a, general suffrage was established in Finland in 1906. The voting age was first set at 24, but after World War II it was lowered to 21, including those who had served in the regular army.

[871] Education in Finland is on a non-political basis, and the children are exposed to almost no political propaganda in their classrooms. This is

•666 taken care of, however, by the youth organizations of the various political parties, the leftists being much more active and seemingly much more successful than the "bourgeois" ones. Among the adults, also, political awareness is more keen in the labor classes than in other layers of society. Usually not more than 70 per cent of the population of voting age actually use this privilege and it is generally understood that the majority of members in this so-called "party of sleepers" are to be found among the "bourgeois" population.

SOURCES

113 Miesmaa, Jukka, ed. Facts about Finland. Helsinki: Otava, 1952. Pp. 64, illus.

Mitä, missä, milloin. [What, where, when.] Vols. I and V. Helsinki: Otava, 1951, 1954. Pp. 348, 380, illus.